

# Mistaken, Non-Mistaken, Correct and Wrong Consciousnesses

## ULTIMATE CONSCIOUSNESSES

An ultimate consciousness arises in dependence on ultimate analysis and is necessarily a mental consciousness. If it realizes its main object, it is a valid cognizer. Since its main object exists it is a correct consciousness; and depending on whether its main object appears to exist inherently or not, it is either a mistaken or a non-mistaken mind.

CONSCIOUSNESS	ACTIVITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS	MAIN OBJECT	MISTAKEN or not etc.
<b>Yogic direct perceiver</b>	(directly) realizing	(e.g.) the emptiness of the “I”	NON-MISTAKEN because its main object <b>does not appear</b> to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus <b>apprehended correctly</b> .
<b>Inferential valid cognizer</b> (conceptual consciousness)	realizing	(e.g.) the emptiness of the body	MISTAKEN because its main object <b>appears</b> to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus <b>apprehended correctly</b> .
<b>Correct assumption</b> that arises in dependence on ultimate analysis (conceptual consciousness)	perceiving (but not realizing)	(e.g.) the emptiness of the body	MISTAKEN because its main object <b>appears</b> to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus <b>apprehended correctly</b> .

## **CONVENTIONAL CONSCIOUSNESSES**

A conventional consciousness does not arise in dependence on ultimate analysis. Whatever is a conventional consciousness is necessarily mistaken because its main object appears to exist inherently. If its main object exists, it is a correct consciousness; if its main object does not exist, it is a wrong consciousness. Three types of conventional consciousnesses are described here: conventional valid cognizer, correct conventional consciousness that does not realize its main object, and wrong conceptual consciousness.

### ***CONVENTIONAL VALID COGNIZERS***

A conventional valid cognizer realizes its main object. It is a correct consciousness because its main object exists.

CONSCIOUSNESS	ACTIVITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS	MAIN OBJECT	MISTAKEN and so forth
<b>Nose consciousness</b> (sense consciousness)	(directly) realizing	(e.g.) incense	MISTAKEN because its main object <b>appears</b> to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus <b>apprehended correctly</b> .
<b>Inferential cognizer</b> (conceptual consciousness)	realizing	(e.g.) the impermanence of a situation	MISTAKEN because its main object <b>appears</b> to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus <b>apprehended correctly</b> .

## ***CORRECT CONVENTIONAL CONSCIOUSNESSES THAT DO NOT REALIZE THEIR OBJECT***

This type of conventional consciousness merely apprehends its main object without incontrovertibly knowing the object. It is a correct consciousness because its main object exists.

CONSCIOUSNESS	ACTIVITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS	MAIN OBJECT	MISTAKEN and so forth
<b>Ear consciousness</b> that is an awareness to which its object appears but is not ascertained	perceiving (but not realizing)	(e.g.) a conversation	MISTAKEN because its main object <b>appears</b> to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus <b>apprehended correctly</b> .
<b>Correct assumption</b> (conceptual consciousness)	perceiving (but not realizing)	(e.g.) the impermanence of a relationship	MISTAKEN because its main object <b>appears</b> to exist inherently. CORRECT because its main object does exist and is thus <b>apprehended correctly</b> .

## WRONG CONVENTIONAL CONSCIOUSNESSES

Since the main object of this type of conventional mind does not exist, the mind is a wrong consciousness and its main object cannot be realized, it can only be perceived.

CONSCIOUSNESS	ACTIVITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS	MAIN OBJECT	MISTAKEN and so forth
Wrong <b>eye consciousness</b> (sense consciousness)	(erroneously) perceiving	(e.g.) the horns of a rabbit	MISTAKEN because its main object <b>appears</b> to exist inherently (and a rabbit appears to have horns). WRONG because its main object doesn't exist and is thus not <b>apprehended correctly</b> .
Wrong <b>conceptual consciousness</b>	(erroneously) perceiving	(e.g.) a blue snow mountain	MISTAKEN because its main object <b>appears</b> to exist inherently (and a white snow mountain appears to be blue). WRONG because its main object doesn't exist and is thus not <b>apprehended correctly</b> .
Wrong <b>conceptual consciousness</b>	(erroneously) perceiving	(e.g.) the inherent existence of a friend	MISTAKEN because its main object <b>appears</b> to exist inherently (and a friend appears to exist inherently). WRONG because its main object doesn't exist and is thus not <b>apprehended correctly</b> .